



MARION COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TERRY R. CURRY, PROSECUTOR

251 E. OHIO ST., SUITE 160

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

PHONE (317) 327-3522 • FAX (317) 327-3531

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Contacts:

A.J. Deer (317) 327-5493

Anthony.Deer@indy.gov

Michael Leffler (317) 327-5543

Michael.leffler@indy.gov

Man sentenced to 18 years on human trafficking charges

Marion County Prosecutor's Office secures second human trafficking conviction

(Indianapolis, Ind.) Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry announced today that Pardip Singh was sentenced to 18 years with 15 years in the Indiana Department of Correction. Singh was charged with Promotion of Human Trafficking (Class B Felony), Criminal Confinement (Class C Felony), Intimidation (Class D Felony), Criminal Confinement (Class D Felony), Domestic Battery (Class A Misdemeanor) and Battery (Class A Misdemeanor) in May 2012. Singh was found guilty by jury trial of Attempt Promotion of Human Trafficking (Class B Felony), Criminal Confinement (Class C Felony) Intimidation (Class D Felony), Domestic Battery (Class A Misdemeanor) and Battery (Class A Misdemeanor).

As proven at trial, Singh and the victim were in an arranged marriage which took place in India in 2006. It is alleged Singh became abusive and angry at a perceived lack of financial compensation for the marriage from the victim's family. In 2012, Singh's father transported the victim from New Jersey to Ohio to meet with Singh, who then confined her in his vehicle for days from Ohio to Indianapolis. While in Indianapolis, Singh attempted to prostitute his wife. Additionally there was a domestic incident which resulted in his arrest and his wife reporting the alleged crimes to law enforcement authorities.

"Pardip Singh violated the trust of his wife and her family by putting her in an environment that was physically and emotionally abusive," said Prosecutor Curry. "Our office is committed to targeting those who engage in human trafficking and domestic violence, and I am pleased that Deputy Prosecutors Mary Hutchison and Rachel Jefferson once again put together a compelling case that resulted in a punishing a criminal who thought it was his right to deny the very basic needs of others."

Singh's case is the third human trafficking case to be tried in the state of Indiana. In January 2011, the Marion County Prosecutor's Office obtained the first human trafficking conviction. Chris Smiley was charged with human trafficking, promoting prostitution, battery, intimidation, and strangulation. He was convicted by a jury on all counts and is serving a ten-year executed sentence.

A charge of a crime is merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.